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in Spiritualism insists that only such as have had actual personal experience with these phenomena and are familiar with *nuances* which cannot be reported are competent to an opinion, and the claim must be an awkward one for theologians who maintain that their science rests upon immediate experience. But there are others who cannot bring themselves to psychologize upon a mother's grave, who know full well that if in a séance a mother's spirit should appear to be communicating, cool judgment would be completely overborne by loving emotion, and such persons must be convinced by published reports. Most of these persons probably feel that, in all the circumstances, a verdict of not proven is the only one they can honestly render; the evidence is not strong enough for full acceptance, but it is too strong for flat denial. Yet they may believe in immortality nevertheless, for there may well be survival without communication, although of course proved communication would demonstrate survival.

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THE WORK OF PREACHING. ARTHUR S. HOYT. The Macmillan Co. 1917. Pp. 382. \$1.50.

VITAL ELEMENTS OF PREACHING. ARTHUR S. HOYT. The Macmillan Co. 1914. Pp. 326. \$1.50.

PSYCHOLOGY AND PREACHING. CHARLES S. GARDNER. The Macmillan Co. 1918. Pp. 389. \$2.00.

THE WAR AND PREACHING. JOHN KELMAN. Yale University Press. 1919. Pp. 213.

Of the making of books on preaching there is no end, perhaps because there is no standard treatise on Homiletics which dominates the field. Furthermore, since the voice from the pulpit must speak to each generation in the manner to which it will listen gladly, it is essential that the preacher's emphasis and form should change and grow from decade to decade.

Among recent books on Homiletics those of Professor Hoyt are well known and useful. His treatise, *The Work of Preaching*, first appeared in 1905, but in its present form a good deal of new material has been added. The volume is well arranged and suggestive, and has been written out of a large experience and wide study of the subject. His advice to the young preacher is eminently practical, and he supplements his own words by convenient references to a few of the older books upon the subject.

In *Vital Elements of Preaching* he has written for those who have already begun to preach. The book is one which many a minister could read and ponder with profit, particularly those chapters which deal with "The Preacher of this Age," and with preaching for special groups or occasions. The two books cover somewhat the same ground and have more or less common material, especially in the way of illustrations.

In *Psychology and Preaching* Professor Gardner of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville has undertaken to do for preachers what volumes on educational psychology have done for teachers. He begins by discussing the general mental processes, goes on to a review of the phenomena of feeling, belief, attention, and suggestion, and concludes with a discussion of the psychology of groups as seen in assemblies, occupational types, and in "the modern mind." The best chapters in the book are those on "Assemblies" and "Mental Epidemics," which have many useful suggestions of advice and warning for the preacher. Indeed the whole theme of the book is one which has received relatively little attention from preachers or from teachers of Homiletics, who may well be grateful to Professor Gardner for his discussion of the subject. What he has done, however, is but to give a psychological analysis of the factors which the great preachers of all ages have instinctively felt and acted upon. Consequently there is little in his book that is new for the reader who has had any training in psychology or for the preacher who has studied his art with care and discrimination. It must furthermore be said that the first half of the book is rather dry and technical and that a volume half the size would have held the meat of what Professor Gardner has to say.

And could not the whole subject be most satisfactorily dealt with in a book on Homiletics which should state — as few books on Homiletics have done — the psychological bases for the methods taught?

The War and Preaching is the forty-fifth series of the Lyman Beecher Lectures on Preaching at Yale — that remarkable foundation which has given to the world so many admirable contributions to the study of Homiletics. Dr. Kelman, at the time minister of St. George's Free Church, Edinburgh, but now of New York, has wisely refrained from attempting any formal treatise on a subject already so fully dealt with. Instead he has undertaken to interpret the work of the preacher in the lurid light of the war, of which he himself saw much at close quarters. The result is a modest volume, rather discursive, but full of charm and suggestion, due to the clarity of the

author's style, his wide outlook upon the world, and the moving experiences through which he has passed. Every minister would profit by his lectures entitled "Then Came the War," and "The Soldiers' Creed;" but indeed the whole book abounds in passages weighted with suggestions for the alert preacher, who seldom finds a vein so heavily loaded with ore.

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